

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. No claims are being amended at this time.

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conmy (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,480) in view of Schuster (U.S. Patent No. 6,577,622) in further view of Rupert (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,915). In maintaining this rejection, the Examiner indicates his reasoning to be that Conmy shows that it is “old and well-known to utilize symbols to designate participant’s activities in an electronic calendar.” (page 2 of Examiner’s Detailed Action).

The Applicants traverse this rejection.

As noted in the Applicants’ last amendment, each of the independent claims 1, 14, and 22 each recite, in part: “... receiving ... via a wireless communication channel, a compact availability data set ... wherein the availability data set includes concise generic indicators to indicate at least one of free space in an attendee’s schedule and busy space in an attendee’s schedule, thereby enabling efficient transmission over the wireless communication channel.” Also, independent claim 28 recites, in part: “a server ... adapted to ... transmit to the wireless scheduling device via a wireless communication channel, a compact availability data set ... wherein the availability data set includes concise generic indicators to indicate at least one of free space in an attendee’s schedule and busy space in an attendee’s schedule, thereby enabling efficient transmission over the wireless communication channel.”

Thus, the claimed invention defines methods/means for receiving a wireless

transmission that includes a “compact availability data set” that includes concise generic indicators of an attendee’s schedule (e.g., free space and/or busy space). As explained in the Applicants’ specification: “A benefit of the concise nature of the information in the availability data set is the ease with which such information may be communicated over the relatively slow data communication channels associated with wireless devices.” (page 6, lines 22-24 of Applicants’ Specification). The Applicants recognized, among other things, that availability data can be transmitted in a concise form. Once the compact availability data set is received, attendee availability can then be derived and displayed at the wireless device. Significantly, each of the Applicants’ independent claims is limited to a method/means where the compact availability data set enable an efficient wireless *transmission* to a wireless scheduling device via a wireless communication channel. How the received data is *displayed* is another matter (see, for example, claims 2, 3, 15, 16, 23, and 24).

As previously explained, the Applicants have reviewed the references of record (including Conmy, Schuster, and Rubert), and can find no disclosure or suggestion (whether considering the references alone or in combination) to use or otherwise exploit a compact availability data, thereby enabling efficient transmission over a wireless communication channel, as recited in the Applicants claims 1-30.

In response, the Examiner seems to focus on how data is displayed to the user, rather than the data transmission, as defined in the Applicants’ claims. For instance, the Examiner states that figure 7 of Conmy “shows a box beside the participant name and a symbol

designating their status.” (page 2 of Examiner’s Detailed Action). From this the Examiner concludes that the claimed invention is disclosed. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that how Conmy *displays* information does not disclose the claimed invention as recited in the Applicants’ independent claims, where the compact availability data that is transmitted to the wireless scheduling device is concise, thereby enabling efficient *transmission* of that availability data over the wireless communication channel. How the received data is *displayed* is defined in claims 2, 3, 15, 16, 23, and 24.

In addition, Conmy does not disclose or suggest a “compact availability data set” as recited in the Applicants claims. Rather, Conmy discloses: “Collectively, the profiles 202 and calendar files 210 comprise availability information for a particular user.” (col. 4, lines 1-3). Conmy further discloses: “Profiles 202 may comprise information regarding each invitee’s work hours on a day to day basis (and hence his or her non-work hours), as well as the time zone in which he or she works, the physical location where he or she works, and the hours of that location. Other availability information about each invitee may be stored in the profile 202.” (col. 3, lines 56-62). Conmy further discloses: “Calendar files 210 may comprise information regarding events that have already been scheduled for that invitee either by the user or by another coordinator.” (col. 3, lines 63-65). The Applicants strongly submit that the profiles 202 and calendar files 210 comprising Conmy’s “availability information” do not collectively represent a compact availability data set that includes concise generic indicators to indicate free space and/or busy space in an attendee’s schedule as recited in the Applicants’ claims. Conmy simply does not disclose a compact availability data set that includes free space in an attendee’s schedule and/or busy space in an attendee’s

schedule, as claimed by Applicants. Rather, Conmy sends additional data (e.g., “information regarding each invitee’s work hours … and non-work hours,” “time zone,” “physical location … and the hours of that location,” and “information regarding events that have already been scheduled for that invitee.””)

In further support of the Applicants’ position, Conmy provides Figure 5 as an example of the information that is communicated when a user of the system requests an event. (col. 7, lines 44-46). The profiles 202 included in the transmitted data include, for instance, physical location data (“IRIS”) as well as each person’s work hours (to allow for calculation of alternate “best fit” meeting times). (e.g., figure 5; col. 7, lines 60-62). Also, note that Conmy is not communicating such availability information via a wireless communication channel. Rather, Conmy is using wired links and an email service to transmit the specified availability data. (e.g., col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 5; col. 5, lines 45-51; col. 9, lines 3-5; col. 10, lines 22-25). Mobile users are only supported in an “off-line” capacity, where information is downloaded while connected to the system (via wired connection), so that information can then be viewed and modified as desired offline. The modified information can then be transmitted once the user is back on-line with the wired system. (e.g., col. 9, lines 35-43; col. 11, lines 41-44; col. 12, lines 35-39).

For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the cited art.

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-30. Favorable action is solicited. The

Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile, or email for quickest resolution, if there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully Submitted,
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